

# READING COMPREHENSION.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the text and answer the questions.

## *The Ancient Art of Rangoli.*

By Shruti Priya and Katherine Darrow

1. More than 5,000 years ago, people living in the Indus Valley of northern India decorated the floors and walls of their homes with elaborate designs of flowers, birds, or geometric patterns. This ancient tradition, known as Rangoli, is practiced today throughout India as an important part of festivals and celebrations. In southern India, women and children still make Rangoli every morning on the threshold of their homes. They perform this daily ritual to welcome guests and bring good luck to the family.



2. Rang is the Hindi word for "color," but throughout the country, different styles of Rangoli are known by other names. The brilliant, colored powders used to make Rangoli are made from finely ground rock powder, spices, and other kinds of dyes mixed with rice flour. Turmeric, a spice commonly used in Indian cooking, gives a bright yellow. Indigo is a deep blue made from the leaves of a shrub. Vermillion red is made from grinding up a mineral called cinnabar. Plain white rice flour is also part of the color spectrum in Rangoli.

3. Festivals such as Diwali, or "Festival of Lights," call for a special Rangoli inviting Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, to people's homes. Lakshmi is believed to visit households that have been well cleaned and beautifully decorated. The whole family helps to complete the big Rangoli by filling colors in the intricate patterns. A special impression of Lakshmi's footprint is made by dipping the side of a fist into the rice paste, and then adding toes using fingertips.



4. There are no fixed rules to making Rangoli. Why not try your hand at making one with ordinary materials that you have around the house.

1. When did Rangoli begin?
2. Where is Rangoli celebrated?
3. What is the reason women and children still make Rangoli?
4. What does Rang mean?
5. Write the ingredients/materials to make Rangoli:
6. What is the belief for Lakshmi visit households?
7. Are there rules to create Rangoli?
8. What is your opinion about this tradition?
9. Is there a similar Mexican tradition?  
Which one?